

expenditure from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund which is not permitted by this section. The determination of whether an expenditure is so permitted shall be made without regard to—

“(A) any provision of law which is not contained or referenced in this title or in a revenue Act; and

“(B) whether such provision of law is a subsequently enacted provision or directly or indirectly seeks to waive the application of this subsection.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR PRIOR OBLIGATIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any expenditure to liquidate any contract entered into (or for any amount otherwise obligated) before October 1, 2000, in accordance with the provisions of this section.”.

DeWINE AMENDMENT NO. 3622

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. DEWINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 2279, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. . TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier” has the meaning given that term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) AIRCRAFT.—The term “aircraft” has the meaning given that term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) AIR TRANSPORTATION.—The term “air transportation” has the meaning given that term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) BERMUDA II AGREEMENT.—The term “Bermuda II Agreement” means the Agreement Between the United States of America and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Concerning Air Services, signed at Bermuda on July 23, 1977 (TIAS 8641).

(5) CLEVELAND-LONDON (GATWICK) ROUTE.—The term “Cleveland-London (Gatwick) route” means the route between Cleveland, Ohio, and the Gatwick Airport in London, England.

(6) FOREIGN AIR CARRIER.—The term “foreign air carrier” has the meaning given that term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Transportation.

(8) SLOT.—The term “slot” means a reservation for an instrument flight rule take-off or landing by an air carrier of an aircraft in air transportation.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) under the Bermuda II Agreement, the United States has a right to designate an air carrier of the United States to serve the Cleveland-London (Gatwick) route;

(2)(A) on December 3, 1996, the Secretary awarded the Cleveland-London (Gatwick) route to Continental Airlines;

(B) on June 15, 1998, Continental Airlines announced plans to launch nonstop service on that route on February 19, 1999, and to provide single-carrier one-stop service between London, England (from Gatwick Airport) and dozens of cities in Ohio and the surrounding region; and

(C) on August 4, 1998, the Secretary renewed the authority of Continental Airlines to carry out the nonstop service referred to in subparagraph (B) and selected Cleveland, Ohio, as a new gateway under the Bermuda II Agreement;

(3) unless the Government of the United Kingdom provides Continental Airlines commercially viable access to Gatwick Airport, Continental Airlines will not be able to ini-

tiate service on the Cleveland-London (Gatwick) route; and

(4) Continental Airlines is prepared to initiate competitive air service on the Cleveland-London (Gatwick) route when the Government of the United Kingdom provides commercially viable access to the Gatwick Airport.

(c) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary should—

(1) act vigorously to ensure the enforcement of the rights of the United States under the Bermuda II Agreement;

(2) intensify efforts to obtain the necessary assurances from the Government of the United Kingdom to allow an air carrier of the United States to operate commercially viable, competitive service for the Cleveland-London (Gatwick) route; and

(3) ensure that the rights of the Government of the United States and citizens and air carriers of the United States are enforced under the Bermuda II Agreement before seeking to renegotiate a broader bilateral agreement to establish additional rights for air carriers of the United States and foreign air carriers of the United Kingdom, including the right to commercially viable competitive slots at Gatwick Airport and Heathrow Airport in London, England, for air carriers of the United States.

SNOWE AMENDMENTS NOS. 3623–3625

Mr. MCCAIN (for Ms. SNOWE) proposed three amendments to the bill, S. 2279, supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3623

On page 121, line 1, strike “INTERNATIONAL”.

On page 121, line 3, before “The” insert “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.—”.

On page 121, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(b) INCREASED CIVIL PENALTIES.—Section 46301(a) is amended by—

(1) inserting “41705,” after 1142704,” in paragraph (1)(A); and

(2) adding at the end thereof the following:

“(7) Unless an air carrier that violates section 41705 with respect to an individual provides that individual a credit or voucher for the purchase of a ticket on that air carrier or any affiliated air carrier in an amount (determined by the Secretary) of—

“(A) not less than \$500 and not more than \$2,500 for the first violation; or

“(B) not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$5,000 for any subsequent violation, that air carrier is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty, determined by the Secretary, of not more than 100 percent of the amount of the credit or voucher so determined. For purposes of this paragraph, each act of discrimination prohibited by section 41705 constitutes a separate violation of that section.”.

On page 89, strike the item relating to section 507 and insert the following:

Sec. 507. Higher standards for handicapped access.

AMENDMENT NO. 3624

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

SEC. . AUTOMATED SURFACE OBSERVATION SYSTEM STATIONS.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall not terminate human weather observers for Automated Surface Observation System stations until—

(1) the Secretary of Transportation determines that the System provides consistent reporting of changing meteorological conditions and notifies the Congress in writing of that determination; and

(2) 60 days have passed since the report was submitted to the Congress.

AMENDMENT NO. 3625

On page 147, line 4, after “program.” insert the following: “For purposes of this subsection, the application of geographic diversity criteria means criteria that—

“(1) will promote the development of a national air transportation system; and

“(2) will involve the participation of communities in all regions of the country.”.

MCCAIN (AND FORD) AMENDMENT NO. 3626

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. FORD) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 2279, supra; as follows:

On page 48 of the managers’ amendment, strike “additional” in line 12, line 16, and line 23.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on Wednesday, September 23, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. in SR-328A. The purpose of this meeting will be to examine forestry issues.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a full committee hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, October 1, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of Eljay B. Bowron to be Inspector General of the Department of the Interior; Rose Eilene Gottemoeller to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Non-Proliferation and National Security; and David Michaels to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health.

For further information, please contact Gary Ellsworth of the Committee staff at (202) 224-7141.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The purpose of this meeting will be to examine forestry issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to